



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD &amp; AGRICULTURE

## Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in California

One year ago, California was classified as **Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA)** because bovine TB had been confirmed in three dairy herds since May 2002 - two in Tulare County and one in Kings County. All three herds were quarantined, the cattle destroyed, and the affected premises cleaned and disinfected. All three herds have been repopulated and have TB tested negative. California will reapply for Accredited Free status in April 2005, if no additional infected herds are detected.

### Update

As of April 1, 2004, 720,044 cattle in 563 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and about 13,000 cattle have been depopulated.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Number of herds tested	563
Number of animals tested	720,044
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	~13,000
Average number of field personnel	30

### Summary of Events

May 2002: First infected herd detected.  
 June 2002: Negative TB test required on dairy breeding cattle more than 6 months old leaving California.  
 Oct. 2002: Second infected herd detected.  
 Nov. 2002: First infected herd depopulated.  
 Jan. 2003: Third infected herd detected.  
 Mar. 2003: Second infected herd depopulated.  
 April 2003: Third Infected herd depopulated. California reclassified as Modified Accredited Advanced.  
 May 2003: Tri-county area testing started.  
 Aug. 2003: Negative TB test required on dairy breeding cattle more than 6 months old entering California.  
 Feb. 2004: All repopulated herds have TB tested negative.

### California's Eradication Plan

CDFA, USDA and the cattle industry are currently:

- Testing cattle on all dairies in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties.
- Enhancing slaughter surveillance in all California's slaughter plants.
- Improving live cattle testing procedures through training and education.
- Preparing to apply for Free status in April 2005.

### TB Surveillance in California

Surveillance in live cattle and at slaughter is key to eradicating TB. Testing cattle entering or leaving California ensures infected animals are detected rapidly.

TB screening tests have a high false positive rate - a 1% caudal-fold response rate is standard - due to cattle health and environmental issues. Most of these cattle are negative on the confirmatory test done by regulatory veterinarians. Guidelines enhancing the quality of practitioner tests are being developed.

All cattle are examined for TB lesions at slaughter, and the goal for good surveillance is to examine tissues from 1 animal in the laboratory for every 2,000 adult cattle killed. California's high cull rate - approximately 30% annually - helps TB surveillance. California continues to set high standards for slaughter surveillance; this enhanced surveillance led to the detection of the first and third infected herds.

### Cattle Leaving California

All breeding cattle and bison leaving California require official identification and a negative official TB test within 60 days of being moved, unless they are:

- Moved directly to slaughter at an approved slaughter plant
- From an accredited herd with a certificate showing the herd completed all testing for accredited status with negative results within one year before moving.

These TB requirements do not apply to sexually intact heifers moving to feedlots, or steers and spayed heifers. Some states have more restrictive policies - always check with the state of destination when moving cattle.

Breeding beef cattle 24 months of age and older moving to neighboring states annually for grazing on approved Pasture-to-Pasture permits require a TB test by January 2005. These herd tests are valid for three years for the annual Pasture-to-Pasture permits.

### Michigan Granted Split State TB Status

Michigan was granted Split State Tuberculosis Status on April 19, 2004. Previously, the entire State of Michigan was classified as Modified Accredited (MA) for cattle and bison. The new MA zone includes 11 counties and a portion of two counties. The designation of the remaining counties is raised to MAA.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices	
Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
Tulare TB Task Force	559-687-1158
<b>USDA/APHIS/VS</b> 916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690	

For more information, visit Web sites at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/> or <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs>